

MINUTES OF BEAVERTON SISTER CITIES ADVISORY BOARD

Sept. 27, 2010

PRESENT: Tin Wignall, Ted Chung, Sonia Harrison, Amy Starke, Kellie Stellingwerf, Megan Kirkpatrick, Brian Bost, Eileen Drake, Gary Carlson, Sheldon Lee, Sister Cities Program Coordinator/Staff Liaison Theresa Baird, Council Liaison Ian King.

ABSENT: Stan Tellin, Gayle Schula, Diane Spalding, Giselle Bawnik.

SPECIAL GUEST: Portland attorney Jessica Hamilton of Perkins Cole LLP and former Peace Corps volunteer in Birobidzhan, Russia

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by chairman Tim Wignall at 5:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes of the Aug. 23, 2010 meeting were approved as amended – with the addition of Sonia's name as present-- by a unanimous vote on a motion by Brian

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION: In 1997, Jessica began a Peace Corps stint teaching English as a second language in the secondary schools in the Russian Far East. It was the fourth year the Peace Corps had been in Russia. She stayed with a host family in Birobidzhan for three months, learned Russian, and was posted in Naifeld, 45 miles to the south of Birobidzhan, where she lived on her own for one and a half years. Jessica provided a great deal of information about the people, climate, culture, lifestyle, businesses and community that helped “bring the city to life,” according to Advisory Board members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UPDATE ON MEXICAN SISTER CITY: We are hoping to soon begin direct communications with Aguascalientes. Until then, we are continuing to communicate through the Mexican consulate which makes the communication process a little slower.

CHEONAN TRIP IN OCTOBER: Ted Chung gave an update on the October trip. The Mayor, Ted and his wife, Sue, and Dave and Christine Vernier will represent the city in this exchange. The itinerary in South Korea is set and there will be a full schedule for our delegation including many visits to environmental, cultural and business sites. Theresa reported that a beautiful vase made by local artist Beth O'Mahony has been shipped to Cheonan as a gift from Beaverton.

ACTIVITIES:

SUSTAINABILITY/ISL Project Committee: Tim Wignall reported there is a group of talented new volunteers on the project committee. There has been some influx but that is settling down to a core group of people. The ISL Project planning is moving along well and Theresa recommended that board members visit the Sister Cities website to see the progress:

<http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/departments/sistercities/isl/> . Several volunteer task teams are meeting outside the main monthly project committee meeting. Theresa displayed a rough draft of the curriculum planning calendar for the 22 days of events. We are asking businesses to participate through sponsorship, educational or technical presentations, and a few businesses have already given verbal pledges of support. The school district has offered Merlo Station High School to use for the project. There are about 15 host families signed up so far. All application materials, for sponsorship, host families, participants and educational contributors are online now in the ISP Project section in PDF and Word.

Theresa asked if any board members who are not already helping with the ISL Project planning want to help plan the itinerary for the visiting mayors and city representatives in August. Tim proposed that this be discussed more at the next meeting. Brian asked if itinerary planning would go under the Event Committee. Theresa said it could *possibly*, but said it was broader, that scheduling would need to tie in with business and sustainability project daytime activities as well as evening social/cultural activities. Theresa expressed that Diane and Gayle are already doing a lot of work organizing events for the ISL Project and are also working on host family recruitment & planning; adding overall itinerary planning to their task load would stretch them too thin.

Ian suggested the board update the City Council on the project when ready to present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY: Brian reported Jenni Bost is continuing to work on this and is nearly finished, with just Gotemba's survey remaining.

LOCAL CULTURAL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS: Brian is working on this.

NEW BOARD GUIDELINES: Tim reminded those five board members whose terms are up at the end of the year that they will need to reapply by Oct. 8 . This can be done at:
<http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/departments/neighborhoods/boards>

DEC. BOARD MEETING: The December Board meeting will be moved to December 6th to avoid holiday scheduling conflicts. It will be held at a restaurant. Among suggested restaurants so far are Wong's King and Hacienda Real.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS: Please come prepared at the October meeting to nominate officers (chairman, vice chairman and secretary).

BEAVERTON OPEN HOUSE: Megan reported several people came by and several signed up as potential host families.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADERS TO SPEAK AT THE ISL: Please send suggestions to Theresa.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m. on a motion by Brian.

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Amy Starke, secretary